The abstracts provide some basic data and guide the reader as to the usefulness of the reference. This bibliography, however, would be of little value to practitioners as a direct source of toxicology information.

Reviewed by *Herman J. Boermans, Assistant Professor of Toxicology, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1.*

Mineral Levels in Animal Health — Diagnostic Data. Robert Puls. Published by Serpa International, P.O. Box 2256, Clearbrook, B.C. V2T 4X2. 250 pages. Price $45. (Can.)

This book presents tables of tissue-levels followed by brief notes on signs of toxicity and/or deficiency, diagnosis, and treatment for forty "mineral" elements. Each is treated in order, alphabetically by element, and by species of domesticated animal affected.

While the data are generally available in other textbooks, none presents them in this concise and ready format, and one would usually need to consult several texts to glean the same basic information. The author has consulted a large number of sources ("many thousands") and applied his own judgement, gained through long experience, in arriving at levels for categories where no consensus exists.

No one should use the book without first reading the "usernotes" and "Interpretation of data" sections at the beginning, where the author warns against uncritical use of tissue-levels for diagnosis of a deficiency or toxic status. Mineral interactions, breed and strain variations, homeostasis, locality differences, and laboratory error, all conspire to prevent life from being so simple.

However, for anyone involved in making decisions on mineral status for whatever reasons, (clinical and laboratory diagnosticians, feed formulators, etc), this is a valuable quick guide. I think it would have been even more valuable if a few key references were appended to each element's section. Although a companion volume consisting of a comprehensive reference list is to follow, the key-reference approach would be more economical and more likely to provoke further reading.

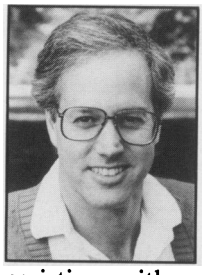
Reviewed by *Ian W. Wilkie, Veterinary Laboratory Services, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, P.O. Box 3612, Guelph, Ontario N1H 6R8.*

LETTER FROM LONDON

UN MOT DE LONDRES

Monaco, November 1989

Bruce Fogel



As a profession, our responsibilities have been evolving faster than perhaps we would like them to, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the field of client-patient-veterinarian relations. Over the last hundred years we have been responsible for the maintenance of an efficient transportation system, for assisting with animal-derived protein production, and for the care and attention of a variety of social species of mammals that for some reason or other our society has actually chosen to take into their homes.

Since graduating from OVC with a DVM in 1970, Bruce Fogel has been in small animal practice in London, England. He has written two popular books, Pets and Their People *and* Games Pets Play, *and has just completed a BBC television series on the behavior of pets.*

All of us know the statistics today. The vast majority of veterinarians in North America and Western Europe are now involved in the care of companion animals, animals with no apparent economic worth. The question why so many people keep companion animals and what our professional responsibility should be in the future is no longer one coming from a minority group. It is now a predominant thought for the future.

Canada was the first country to seriously ask this question with symposia in the 1970s — the Pets in Society series. The Americans were surprisingly late in taking a broad look at the question. In 1980 the first international symposium on the subject, a meeting called 'The Human Companion Animal Bond' was held in London, and since then three further international meetings have taken place, Philadelphia in 1982, Vienna in 1983, and Boston in 1986. Later this year, in November, the fifth in this series of meetings will take place in Monaco, and, going full circle, there will be significant Canadian participation in it.